



CITY OF LONG BEACH, DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT 2009

"We create community and enhance the quality of life in Long Beach through people, places, programs and partnerships."

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

Membership

The Parks and Recreation Commission was established by the City Charter, Article IX. Commission members serving in calendar year 2009 were:

Simon George

Albert Guerra

Harry Saltzgaver

Drew Satariano (served as President from January through December)

Sarah Tong Sangmeister

Brett Waterfield (served as Vice President from January through December)

Powers and Duties of the Commission

The Parks and Recreation Commission shall have such exclusive authority over all leisure activities in public parks and recreational facilities, controlled or operated by the City, as may be prescribed by the City Council by ordinance; and with respect thereto shall have the following powers and duties.

- ❖ Recommend to City Manager and City Council, the acquisition of land for public parks and public recreation, the dedication of public land for public parks, the removal of public land from dedication as park land, and the acquisition of buildings, waterways, or other facilities for public recreation.
- ❖ Recommend to the City Manager, City Council, and Planning Commission, the approval or rejection of plans for improvement of park land for public recreation and for other purposes, including but not limited to buildings and other facilities, other than land and facilities within the tide and submerged lands granted to the City.
- ❖ Authorize the issuance of permits and agreements related to leisure activities in public parks and recreational facilities controlled or operated by the City.
- ❖ Establish fees for public recreational programs and use of public parks and recreation facilities.
- ❖ Perform such other duties as may be delegated by the City Council by ordinance.

Parks and Recreation Commission Committees

Each of the Commissioners serves on at least two of the seven committees and is the chair of one committee. The committees are listed below, including their responsibilities.

1. Executive Committee

- Meet with the Director to review overall progress of planned projects.
- Provide feedback to the Director on new major projects for land acquisition or other unscheduled projects.
- Provide input and feedback for annual departmental budget priorities and other issues.
- Oversee the Department's Strategic Plan.

2. Finance and Appeals Committee

- Annual review proposed fees and charges.
- Review and comment on annual budget recommendations.
- Act as official appeals board for fee and contract disputes (as stipulated in the City Charter).
- FOR Long Beach work plan.

3. Park Safety Committee

- Review the Park Ranger program.
- Review and evaluate park crime data from City departments.
- Develop plan to address park safety issues.

4. Marketing and Customer Service Committee

- Support Department efforts and identify opportunities to enhance customer service.
- Review of Department mailing plans.

5. Capital Improvements and Infrastructure Committee

- Park Impact Fees.
- Joint school/park acquisition and development.
- Open Space Element of the General Plan update.
- Maintenance of facilities – parks.

6. Special Events and Recreation Committee

- Review and comment on citywide or major special events.
- Review and comment on recreation programs and policies.
- Being neighborhood friendly for special events and filming.

REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL AND SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES FOR 2009

January

- Approved the December 18, 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.
- Received and filed the Director's Monthly Report for December 2008.

February

- Approved the January 15, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.
- Approved recommendation to authorize the Director, or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed.
- Approved recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench at the Downtown Shoreline Marina above Gangway L, in memory of Lawrence Paul Dow, Jr.
- Received and filed the Director's Monthly Report for January 2009.
- Approved recommendation to approve proposed improvements to Lincoln Park through the creation of the Lincoln Park Dog Park, and, as proposed, meets a recreational need in the city through an appropriately designed site.
- Approved recommendation to receive and file the Park Impact Fee Report for Fiscal Year 2008.
- Approved recommendation to receive and file the Policy Concerning Youth League Light Payment Program.

March

- Approved the February 19, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.
- Approved recommendation to authorize the Director, or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed.
- Approved recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute a permit for the operation of a picnic service concession with Dupont Sandwiches, Inc., dba Spectacular Catering, for a term of one year expiring on March 18, 2010, with four one-year options for renewal, subject to the discretion of the Director.
- Approved recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench at the El Dorado Park West duck pond, on the west side facing the island, in memory of Mairela Thomas.

- Approved recommendation to authorize the execution of a Revocable Use Permit with U.S. Golf Little League, Inc., for the use of the upstairs office and reception area on the balcony of the Bruin Den, located at 4900 East 7th Street.
- Approved recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench at the end of the Colonnade overlooking the water in front of Naples Island, in memory of Genevieve Grace Owens.
- Approved recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench to the left of the cannon on Valparaiso Plaza Park, at Ocean Blvd. and Junipero Ave., in memory of Gregg Mattson.
- Received and filed the Director's Monthly Report for February 2009.

April

- Approved the March 19, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.
- Approved recommendation to authorize the Director, or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed.
- Approved recommendation to approve the revised Policy and Procedure 1.14 for Appeals from Department/Management or Parks and Recreation Commission Decisions.
- Received and filed the Director's Monthly Report for March 2009.
- Approved recommendation to receive and file the April 2009 El Dorado Nature Center Stream Restoration report.
- Approved recommendation to receive and file the April 2009 West San Gabriel River Parkway report.
- Approved recommendation to approve the 2008 Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Report and authorize the Director to forward it to the City Council.
- Approved recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute all documents necessary to issue permits to Eco Hatchery LLC, Green Mobile Wash, South Bay Wildlife Rehab, Tree of Life Nursery, and Whole Foods Market, Inc., for the sale of environmentally sustainable and conservation-related products at the Long Beach Honors Earth Day Event at Recreation Park on May 2, 2009.

May

- Approved the April 16, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.
- Approved recommendation to receive and file the KROC Center Development update.

- Approved recommendation to authorize the Director, or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed..
- Approved recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute all documents necessary to issue a permit to ESPN, Inc., doing business as ESPN/RISE, for the use of Blair and Joe Rodgers Fields for the 2009 Area Code Games, from August 4, 2009 through August 10, 2009.
- Approved recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute a permit with Knowledge Learning Corporation® for the operation of a science camp from June 20, 2009 through August 26, 2009, at El Dorado Park West, Picnic Site A.
- Approved recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute all documents necessary to issue the Tenth Amendment to Permit No. 23430 with A.J.'s Custom Picnics for a term of one year, through June 30, 2010.
- Approved recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute all documents necessary to issue a revocable permit to St. Mary Medical Center, a subsidiary of Catholic Healthcare West, for the use of approximately 2,050 square feet of building space, at the Long Beach Senior Center, located at 1150 East 4th Street, Long Beach, for the administration and provision of a physician-based ambulatory healthcare clinic for seniors, for a month-to-month tenancy subject to the discretion of the Director.
- Approved recommendation to approve temporary recreation surcharge fee on certain rounds of golf in Attachment A for immediate implementation and running through September 30, 2010.
- Received and filed the Director's Monthly Report for April 2009.

June

- Approved the May 21, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.
- Approved recommendation to authorize the Director, or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed..
- Approved recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench on the greenbelt in Basin 4 of the Alamitos Bay Marina, in memory of Harry Bolton.
- Approved recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench between gangways 38A – 38B, overlooking the water in Basin 4 in the in the Alamitos Bay Marina, in memory of Genevieve Grace Owens.
- Approved recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench before the tee-off for the 6th hole at Recreation Park 9-Hole Golf Course, in memory of Gail Moreno.

- Approved recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute all documents to enter into an agreement with the County of Los Angeles Community and Senior Services Area Agency on Aging for the continuation of the Senior Community Services Employment Program at the Long Beach Senior Center, located at 1150 East 4th Street, Long Beach, for a term of three years, ending on June 30, 2012.
- Approved Drew Satariano as President and Brett Waterfield as Vice President for a second year.
- Approved recommendation to receive and file the Director's Monthly Report for May 2009.
- Approved recommendation to approve the pilot program for serving and consuming alcohol in City parks under specific conditions and recommend the City Council to approve the pilot program with a request that the City Attorney amend the Municipal Code in accordance with the pilot program, with the understanding that any revenues go back to the Department as new revenue.

July

- Approved the June 18, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.
- Approved recommendation to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and the full City Council that it is appropriate to rename Somerset Park as "Chrissy Strong-Marshall Park."
- Approved recommendation to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and the full City Council that "Cressa Park" is an appropriate name for the landscaped city parcels adjacent to the Los Angeles River from 19th Street to Pacific Coast Highway, known as the 19th Street Greenbelt, and process this land as park land.
- Approved recommendation to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and the full City Council that it is appropriate that the Queen Mary Special Events Park be renamed "Harry Bridges Memorial Park at the Queen Mary."
- Approved recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute all documents necessary to enter into provider agreements with Children's Home Society of California for the establishment and maintenance of the Child Care Assistance Programs at El Dorado West, Pan American, Silverado, Stearns Champions, Veterans, Wardlow, and Whaley Parks.
- Approved recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench on the east side of Colonnade Park overlooking the water, in memory of Myron "Miny" Poe.
- Approved the committee assignments.
- Approved recommendation to receive and file the Director's Monthly Highlights Report for June 2009.
- Approved recommendation to approve modifications to the pilot program for serving and consuming alcohol in City parks under specific conditions.

August

- Approved the August 20, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.
- Approved recommendation to authorize the Director, or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed.
- Approved recommendation to authorize the Department Director to execute a Special Event Concession Permit to SMG Food and Beverage, LLC, for food and non-alcoholic beverage sales at the Movies in the Park and Thursday Night Concerts in the Park 2009 series with one, one-year renewal option for the 2010 series.
- Approved recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench on the perimeter of the entrance to the Recreation Dog Park to honor D. Joan Shamitz.
- Approved recommendation to receive and file an update on five-year plan for placement of Long Beach Marathon memorial benches at Shoreline Park, funded by International City Bank.
- Approved recommendation to approve the Miscellaneous League and Youth Sports League Participant fees of \$10 for residents and \$15 for non-residents per season; and, approve new Homeland Cultural Center fees for Specialty Classes, with a range of \$2 to \$15 per class, and Dance Fest, with a range of \$5 to \$20, and add these fees to the 2010 fee schedule.
- Approved recommendation to receive and file the Director's Monthly Highlights Report for July 2009.
- Approved recommend to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and the full City Council that "K-9 Corner" is an appropriate name for the new dog park at Pacific Avenue and 9th Street.

September

- Approved the August 20, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.
- Approved recommendation to authorize the Director, or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed.
- Approved recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench near the bike path in Heartwell Park to honor Carol Lynn Hillis.
- Approved recommendation to receive and file the Director's Monthly Highlights Report for July 2009.

October

- The October 15, 2009 meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum.

November

- Approved the September 17, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.
- Approved recommendation to authorize the Director, or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed.
- Approved recommendation to authorize the Department Director to execute a Program Co-Sponsorship Agreement with the Arthritis Foundation, a national non-profit organization, for the implementation of the Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program at the Long Beach Senior Center.
- Approved recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute all documents necessary to issue a permit to ESPN, Inc., doing business as ESPN/RISE, for the use of Blair and Joe Rodgers Fields for the 2010 Area Code Games, from August 4, 2010 through August 10, 2010.
- Approved recommendation to approve the placement and installation of a memorial bench at Basin 4, between the Long Beach Yacht Club and the Sea Scout Base building, to honor Fred L. and Janet Riedman.
- Approved recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute all documents necessary to enter into an agreement with Senior Service America, Inc., for the Senior Community Services Employment Program at the Long Beach Senior Center, located at 1150 East Fourth Street, Long Beach, for a term of one year, ending on June 30, 2010, with subsequent one-year renewal periods for a total of five years, at the discretion of the Director.
- Approved recommendation to receive and file the Director's Monthly Highlights Report for October 2009.
- Approved recommendation to recommend the City Council approve the revised pilot program for serving and consuming alcohol in certain facilities and areas in City parks under specific conditions, the revenue from this program to come back to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, and request the City Attorney to amend the Municipal Code to allow alcohol service and consumption in parks under defined circumstances.
- Approved recommendation to approve proposed improvements for a new mini-park located at 851 Orange Avenue, which will meet a recreational need in the city, through an appropriate design.
- Approved recommendation to approve proposed improvements for a new mini-park located at 628 Baker Street, which meets a recreational need in the city, through an appropriately designed site.
- Approved recommendation to approve proposed improvements to Scherer Park through the creation of the Scherer Park Dog Park, and, as proposed, meets a recreational need in the city, through an appropriately designed site.

- Approved recommendation to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and the full City Council that the existing Joe Rodgers Field be renamed "Joe Rodgers Stadium" and the field be named "Irvin 'Red' Meairs Field."
- Approved recommendation to the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and the full City Council that "the Manazar Gamboa Community Theater" is an appropriate name for the new theater at Homeland/MacArthur Park.
- Approved recommendation to approve the proposed plans for improvements to the Whaley Park parking lot, located at 5620 East Atherton Street, as proposed and furnished in its entirety by the YMCA of Greater Long Beach, and recommend City Council approval of a parking lot Shared Use Agreement.
- Approved recommendation to approve the new Park and Golf Course Tree Trimming Policy and the Park and Golf Course Lake and Pond Management Policy.

December

- Approved the November 19, 2009 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.
- Approved recommendation to authorize the Director, or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed.
- Approved the recommendation to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute all documents necessary to issue a Second Amendment to Use Permit No. 28843 with the Trustees of California State University, Long Beach, to transfer responsibility for all maintenance and concessions at Blair Field from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine to the Trustees of California State University, Long Beach, effective January 1, 2010.
- Approved recommendation to receive and file the Director's Monthly Highlights Report for November 2009.

The following groups requested and received **fee waivers** from the Parks and Recreation Commission during 2009. As part of the Fee Waiver Policy, all groups that receive fee waivers are required to provide in-kind or volunteer services to the Department equivalent to the fees being waived. The in-kind services are to be concluded within a (calendar) year from the date of the waiver.

January

- There were no requests for fee waivers in January.

February

- There were no requests for fee waivers in February.

March

- Approved recommendation to approve the Cambodian Coordinating Council's request for waiver of facility usage fees for the Cambodian New Year Celebration in El Dorado Regional Park East, Area III, with the stipulation that the group write a check by 4:00 p.m. on April 25, 2009, for the amount payable to the City of Long Beach, based on the number of vehicles in attendance. Failure to do so may result in the denial of future events. If this occurs, any future fee waiver requests will be denied and all estimated fees must be paid in advance for all future events.

April

- Approved recommendation to approve the request by Visions in Time for a partial fee waiver of concessions and permit fees for exclusive use of Area III in the El Dorado East Regional Park for a Civil War Reenactment on Saturday, May 30, and Sunday, May 31, 2009, with the following stipulated: Visions in Time will provide to the City a complete accounting of the event expenses and revenues.

May

- There were no requests for fee waivers in May.

June

- There were no requests for fee waivers in June.

July

- There were no requests for fee waivers in July.

August

- There were no requests for fee waivers in August.

September

- There were no requests for fee waivers in September.

October

- There were no requests for fee waivers in October.

November

- There were no requests for fee waivers in November.

December

- There were no requests for fee waivers in December.

The Commission received feedback provided through the **Customer Comment Cards**, which are distributed as part of programs and at facilities throughout the Department. During 2009, there were approximately 269 responses received, which have resulted in the following:

- Training staff regarding customer services.
- Assisting staff in modifying classes and programs provided to patrons.
- Assisting park maintenance staff in prioritizing projects and identifying areas in need of attention.
- Reducing the quantity of complaints received from the public.
- Pleasing patrons when changes have resulted from comment input.

Each customer comment card is read by the Director and written responses are provided to all who request a response. To create more of an outreach effort, Department staff attends approximately 23 neighborhood association and community meetings per month to discuss issues the community may have and to inform the community of current Department events.

RECREATION COMMISSION **ATTENDANCE RECORD – 2009**

Commissioner	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Simon George	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	EX	X	X
Albert Guerra	X	X	X	X	X	EX	X	X	X	EX	X	X
Harry Saltzgaver	X	X	X	EX	X	X	X	X	X	EX	X	X
Drew Satariano	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sarah Tong Sangmeister	X	X	X	X	X	X	EX	X	X	X	X	X
Brett Waterfield	X	X	X	EX	X	X	X	EX	EX	X	X	X

X – Present

EX - Excused Absence

RES -Resigned from the Commission

UNEX - Unexcused Absence

APPT - Appointed to the Commission

TERM END -End of Term

The Parks and Recreation Commission meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. These meetings are held at various locations throughout the city and are open to the public.

CITY PERSONNEL ASSISTING PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION - 2009

STAFF TOTAL:

Director
60 hrs. x \$117.15 = \$ 7,029

Manager, Business Operations
34 hrs. x \$83.72 = 2,846

Manager of Community Recreation Services
34 hrs. x \$80.62 = 2,741

Manager of Maintenance Operations
40 hrs. x \$63.49 = 2,536

Manager of Planning and Development
40 hrs. x \$86.06 = 3,442

Executive Assistant
144 hrs. x \$42.39 = 6,104

Superintendent of Personnel and Training
8 hrs. x \$61.11 = 489

Superintendent of Finance and Controls
8 hrs. x \$58.03 = 464

Monthly Commission Report
Bureau Manager - 2 hrs. x 12 mo. x \$83.72 = \$2,009
Secretary - 16 hrs. x 12 mo. x \$32.33 = \$6,207
Total 8,216

Graphics/Print Shop
1 hr. x 12 months x \$23.29 = 279

MISCELLANEOUS

Materials and Supplies 2,228

TOTAL \$ 36,376

NOTE: The salary rates listed for each position represents hourly loaded costs.

DEPARTMENT PREAMBLE

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine believes that recreation is a basic human need. It provides social, cultural, physical and intellectual activities for all to enjoy in a quality environment, with inherent values beyond the scope of the activity.

People in the developed nations of the world have achieved an awesome technological capability that has relieved them of considerable effort in attaining their physiological needs, while giving them leisure. Simultaneously, our social structure has become increasingly urbanized, removing us from direct contact with the natural resources that still must sustain us. However, individuals have not yet completely achieved the ability to use their leisure time to stimulate the mind of the individual, as well as to enhance society. Increased population and the rapid growth of cities have resulted in loss of prime open space and created environmental problems almost beyond comprehension. The need to dedicate open space, including the acquisition of parkland as part of planned community development, is becoming desperate in many areas. Further, the need to educate an urban populace as to how to use parks without abuse, as well as the need to prevent overuse, must be met if parks are to survive once acquired.

The City of Long Beach has both the opportunity and the responsibility to work with private enterprise and other levels of government to fill these needs, while serving every segment of society, through the provision of a balanced program of leisure service opportunities, and environmental education. Youth will be helped to grow physically, mentally and spiritually while developing positive attitudes, which will help them avoid mistakes leading to the further degradation of the environment and society. Adults will have an outlet from the tensions of a competitive, industrialized urban life, and a chance to express their individuality and creativity, while becoming aware of their dependency upon, and inter-relationship with, natural resources. Older adults will find meaning and purpose in their retirement years.

Provision of basic leisure service opportunities and facilities is a major responsibility of government. In addition, voluntary and special interest groups, private agencies and commercial enterprises should be encouraged to supply appropriate leisure services in a coordinated delivery system, which will benefit the citizens of Long Beach in the following ways:

Personal Benefits

1. Investment in our youth, through recreation programs, provides for positive lifestyle choices and alternatives to self-destructive behavior.
2. Recreation provides the opportunity to lead balanced lives, achieve our full potential, and gain satisfaction in life.
3. Skills our citizens develop through meaningful recreation activities are essential sources of self-esteem and positive self-image.

Social Benefits

4. Community recreation can bridge the gap with our citizens and reduce alienation, loneliness, and anti-social behaviors.
5. Leisure service activities promote ethnic and cultural harmony, by allowing people to share their differences and play and grow together.
6. Community pride is generated through leisure service activities, facilities, programs, and voluntary commitment.

Economic Benefits

7. The provision of meaningful recreation activities for our young people reduces the high cost of vandalism and criminal activity.
8. The leisure services offered by our department are attractive to tourists and are an essential ingredient of this city's tourism industry.
9. Physical and mental health achieved through our department's delivery system, and balanced meaningful lifestyles, reduces expensive health care costs.

Environmental Benefits

10. Investing in the environment through our beaches, marinas, and waterways, and park land space in residential areas, leads to increased property values through accessibility and associated recreation opportunities.

Failure to meet the challenges of providing well-planned public open space and quality leisure-time opportunities, as well as the challenge of educating the public who use the facilities, will result in a diminution of the quality of human life. The City of Long Beach can help to meet these challenges.

MISSION AND GOALS

Mission

We create community and enhance the quality of life in Long Beach through people, places, programs, and partnerships.

Goals

- ◆ Ensure open space, parks, and recreational facilities meet community needs.
- ◆ Ensure City parks and recreational facilities provide a positive experience and image.
- ◆ Ensure recreational programming, leisure opportunities, and community services meet the diverse needs and interests of residents and visitors.
- ◆ Ensure beaches, waterways, and marine amenities are accessible and provide a positive experience and image.
- ◆ Ensure marinas are fiscally sound and meet boat owner and community needs.

FACILITIES, PROGRAMS, AND SERVICES

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine oversees the operation and maintenance of all Long Beach public recreational facilities, including:

- 3,079 acres devoted to open space and recreation
- 156 parks
- 5 golf courses -- The busiest municipal golf system in the nation
- 26 community centers
- 52 park playgrounds
- 6 miles of beaches
- 3 marinas with a combined 3,800 boat slips -- The largest municipally operated marina system in the nation
- 3 swimming pools
- 69 tennis courts
- 2 tennis centers
- Rancho Los Cerritos and Rancho Los Alamitos
- Rainbow Harbor and Rainbow Lagoon
- Long Beach Museum of Art
- El Dorado Nature Center
- Blair Field (baseball stadium)
- Leeway Sailing Center
- Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier
- Long Beach Municipal Cemetery

The Department provides free and fee-based recreational programs and leisure opportunities, both self-directed and organized, for people of all ages and cultures. Youth programs include free youth sports for ages 5 to 18 serving nearly 652,000 participants annually, summer and vacation day camps, 800 recreational and educational classes, sailing and aquatics instruction, teen center activities, skateboarding opportunities, and supervised afterschool and weekend activities at parks, schools, and mobile recreation sites. In addition, approximately 188,226 youth participate in non-Department sports leagues that utilize park facilities.

Adult recreation opportunities include sports leagues, tennis and golf facilities and instruction, and more than 25,159 recreational and self-improvement classes annually. Recreation programs and social services for seniors are offered at six community centers. A regional Senior Olympics program is also offered. Family recreation opportunities include Long Beach Municipal Band concerts, cultural arts programs, environmental programs, citywide and neighborhood special events, boating facilities, as well as general park and beach use. Additional information regarding the Department's programs and facilities can be found at www.lbparks.org.

DEPARTMENT HISTORY

The Long Beach municipal parks system was created in 1888 with the development of Pacific Park (now Lincoln Park) in the downtown area. In the early 1900's, additional parks were developed with land donated by prominent Long Beach families including the Bixbys, Carrolls, and Houghtons. Parkland was also acquired from the Long Beach Water Company. The discovery of oil in 1921 dramatically increased municipal revenues, allowing the City to acquire additional parkland through direct purchase.

In 1924, Long Beach formed the Park and Highway Commission to manage the growing municipal park system. In 1929, a City Charter amendment established a nine-member Recreation Commission and the Coordinated Municipal and School Recreation Program was formed. Expansion of the park system continued during the 1930's. Funds from the federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) and State Emergency Relief Administration (as a consequence of the 1933 earthquake) supported the development of numerous recreational facilities throughout Long Beach.

During World War II, the City curtailed many recreation activities as a part of the war effort. Weapons installations and troop encampments rendered several parks unusable to the public. Postwar expansion led to the creation of numerous parks and recreation facilities. In 1954, a City Charter amendment established a separate Parks Department. In 1956, a bond issue passed allocating \$4.9 million for parks and recreation improvements, including the acquisition of parkland. In 1961, the Parks Department created a Golf Division and assumed responsibility for the City's five public golf courses.

Due in large part to a burgeoning youth population, a City Recreation Department was established by charter amendment in 1974. The Coordinated Municipal and School Recreation Program, which provided public recreation programming for 45 years, ceased to exist. In 1982, the Recreation Department merged with the Parks Department. It is interesting to note that the Parks Department was also responsible for street landscaping prior to the merger.

The Marine Department, which was originally created in 1956 to operate and maintain the Alamitos Bay Marina, was incorporated in 1987 to create the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine. Finally, in 2001, the Special Events and Filming Bureau was created when the Department assumed responsibility for citywide special events and filming permits.

CURRENT ORGANIZATION

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine is directly responsible to the City Council through the City Manager. The City Manager appoints the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, who, in turn, directs a management staff professionally qualified by education and experience to administer, implement, and manage the Department.

The Department consists of six bureaus. A brief summary of each follows:

Business Operations Bureau: This bureau is responsible for the functions of payroll; personnel; budget; accounting and purchasing; contracts; concession and lease management, technology systems; and marketing and community information. This bureau is also responsible for overseeing the lease agreement for the operation of the City's five golf courses, and for providing as staff support to the Municipal Golf Commission. Five Superintendents report to the Manager of Business Operations.

Community Recreation Services Bureau: This bureau is responsible for all community-based recreation programming, youth services, senior services, youth sports, aquatic facilities and programs, contract class registration, adaptive recreation, special events, day camps and extended day care, adult sports permitting, facility reservations, the mobile skate park and mobile recreation programs, the school based recreation/21st Century program, the operation of El Dorado Regional Park, the park rangers, cultural and community services, mural arts programs, historic preservation and education, natural environment preservation and education, Homeland/MacArthur Park, volunteer programs, and the Long Beach Municipal Band. One General Superintendent and five Superintendents report to the Manager of Community Recreation Services.

Maintenance Operations Bureau: This bureau is responsible for ensuring that all parks, beaches, marinas, community centers, and other facilities under the Department's purview (as have been previously identified) are maintained and improved in an aesthetically pleasing and functional manner. Four Superintendents report to the Manager of Maintenance Operations.

Planning and Development: This bureau is responsible for the preparation and management of the Department's Capital Improvement Program, with projects in parks, marinas, and beach areas and for grant development. The bureau is also responsible for coordinating with the Public Works Department regarding the planning, funding, and completion of capital projects, working with the Planning and Building Department regarding the Open Space and Conservation Elements of the General Plan, and interfacing with regional, state, and federal regulatory and funding agencies concerning environmental issues including water quality, beach erosion, dredging, and habitat preservation. This bureau is also responsible for the oversight of the Rancho Los Cerritos. One Superintendent and one Historic Sites Officer report to the Manager of Planning and Development.

Marine: This bureau is responsible for the management and development of the City's three marinas, navigable waterways, launch ramps, and beach facilities. One Superintendent reports to the Manager of the Marine Bureau. Additionally, the bureau is responsible for providing staff support to the Marine Advisory Committee.

Special Events and Filming: This bureau is responsible for the permitting and coordination of all major special events in the City, including those taking place in the Greater Queensway Bay Area (e.g., Grand Prix, Gay Pride), Queen Mary Special Events Park, beaches (e.g., Beach Fest), and City streets (e.g., parades, car shows). The Manager of Special Events and Filming is also responsible for the permitting and coordination of all motion picture filming in the City, and for managing the Street Banner Program.

A current organizational chart can be found in Appendix 1.

By City Charter, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine supports several advisory bodies that are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. These include:

- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Municipal Golf Commission
- Marine Advisory Commission
- Senior Citizens Advisory Commission
- Commission on Youth and Children

PLANNING RESPONSIBILITY

Parks, recreation and marine facilities should be an integral element of all City land-use planning and zoning. Such planning and zoning should embrace not only areas to be acquired for the City park or recreation system, but maximum use should also be made of zoning and other regulatory powers to preserve open space, protect scenic values and otherwise enhance recreational opportunities in private developments as well.

The Department supports ordinances and zoning changes that will tend to preserve public open spaces and areas of significant natural resources as a regular part of the City development process. This is being accomplished through the constant updating of subdivision regulations, developer fees, and other creative mechanisms. On October 15, 2002, the City Council adopted a revised "Open Space and Recreation Element" of the City's General Plan. This was a significant achievement, as this element had not been updated for nearly 30 years.

The City of Long Beach endeavors to protect existing park, recreation and marine areas against both public and private encroachment and should yield such areas for other purposes only upon the condition that areas lost are replaced by others of comparable value that serve the same population. Potential losses should be viewed as to their affect on the entire management system concerned.

FINANCES

Parks and recreation programs and maintenance responsibilities are basically financed through general taxation, known as the General Fund, while the Marine Bureau activities are financed through the Tidelands Enterprise Fund. The Special Events and Filming Bureau is funded through the Special Advertising and Promotions Fund (SAP). Departmental services are supplemented by such sources as general obligation and revenue bonding, donations of money, loans, Federal and State Assistance Programs, gifts, services from private individuals and groups, and user fees and charges. Parks and recreation programs are generally financed through the City General Fund budget, special districts, contractual services, matching funds and other methods by which those benefited will pay the costs.

The Department strongly supports the concept that users of certain kinds of public park and recreation facilities and programs should pay fees for such use. Revenue from this source should be deposited in separate accounts and be applied to the development, maintenance, and administration of parks and recreation programs. Fees should not be so high as to prevent those in modest circumstances from enjoying the benefits of public parks and recreation programs. Basically, youth recreation programs and youth sports are free of charge in the City of Long Beach.